

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Committee on Policy U.S. House of Representatives



Christopher Cox, Chairman

Committee on Policy
House of Representatives
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

Christopher Cox, California
Chairman

Republican Leadership

Dennis Hastert, Illinois	John Thune, South Dakota
Richard K. Armey, Texas	Ernie Fletcher, Kentucky
Tom Delay, Texas	Ander Crenshaw, Florida
J.C. Watts, Oklahoma	David Dreier, California
Deborah Pryce, Ohio	Jim Nussle, Iowa
Barbara Cubin, Wyoming	Billy Tauzin, Louisiana
Tom Davis, Virginia	Bill Thomas, California
Rob Portman, Ohio	C.W. Bill Young, Florida

Regional Representatives

Shelley Moore Capito, W. Virginia	Floyd Spence, South Carolina
Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Florida	Todd Tiahrt, Kansas
Benjamin Gilman, New York	Pat Toomey, Pennsylvania
Darrell Issa, California	David Vitter, Louisiana
Brian Kerns, Indiana	Roger Wicker, Mississippi

Heather Wilson, New Mexico

Class Representatives

Kenny Hulshof, Missouri	Mark Green, Wisconsin
Todd Platts, Pennsylvania	

Speaker's Appointees

Vito Fossella, New York	Bob Schaffer, Colorado
Bob Goodlatte, Virginia	John Shadegg, Arizona
Felix Grucci, New York	Nick Smith, Michigan
Henry Hyde, Illinois	Cliff Stearns, Florida
Joe Knollenberg, Michigan	Bob Stump, Arizona
Ron Lewis, Kentucky	John Sununu, New Hampshire
Doug Ose, California	Dave Weldon, Florida

Jerry Weller, Illinois

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Responsibilities in the Majority Leadership

The Policy Committee is the House majority's principal forum for discussion of specific legislative initiatives, for the enunciation of official Republican priorities on issues, and for the resolution of inter-jurisdictional policy disputes within our Conference.

The Policy Committee serves other important functions as well. When important legislation is reported from committee, and before it reaches the floor, it is vital that House majority views be aired and reconciled. The responsibility of the Policy Committee is to promote discussion and understanding of our committee bills across the entire Conference, thereby enhancing our opportunities to enact our legislation.

In addition, the Policy Committee serves as an important means by which every member of our Conference can develop sound legislative ideas into sound bills. These bills can then be introduced and considered in the appropriate committee of jurisdiction. The Policy Committee offers a unique opportunity for participation by members whose legislative ideas do not in every case coincide with their committee assignments, as well as an especially useful mechanism for addressing important issues that cut across committee jurisdictions.

Many issues that call for a clear statement of majority policy are not properly addressed (or cannot be timely addressed) by legislation. The Policy Committee--with a combined membership of 20 percent of the Conference, including leadership, key committee chairmen, and both class and regional representatives--is uniquely well suited to issue such statements after careful deliberation and opportunity for all Members to be heard.

Through its Policy Advisory Boards, the Policy Committee conducts a regular liaison with the nation's leading think tanks, scholars, and private-sector experts on the issues before the Congress. Regular meetings of the Policy Advisory Boards and the House Leadership provide an important forum for the advancement of our knowledge of the issues and a key opportunity for the development of sound policy and legislative initiatives.

Rules of the Committee on Policy

RULE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Except as otherwise specified herein, the Rules of the House of Representatives, including those enumerated in Rule XI, and the Rules of the Republican Conference are the rules of the Committee on Policy to the extent applicable.

RULE II

MEMBERSHIP

The Policy Committee will be composed of members as designated in Rule 22 of the Conference.

RULE III

ABSENCE OF THE CHAIR

A member of the Committee shall be designated by the Chair of the Committee as the Vice Chair of the Committee, and shall preside during the absence of the Chair from any meeting or hearing. If the Chair and Vice Chair are not present at any meeting or hearing, a member designated by the Chair shall preside at that meeting or hearing.

RULE IV

REGULAR, ADDITIONAL, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) In accordance with Rule 22 of the Conference, the Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair or the Speaker.

(b) In addition, the Committee will meet in Executive Session at 9:00 a.m. each Thursday when the House is in session.

(c) A regular Executive Session may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chair, there is no need for the meeting.

RULE V

AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed by a majority of the members, at a meeting specifically called for such purpose, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each such member at least 3 days before the time of the meeting.

RULE VI

HEARING PROCEDURES

Meetings and hearings of the Committee shall be called to order and presided over by the Chair; or, in the Chair's absence, by the Vice Chair of the Committee; or, in the Vice Chair's absence, by another member designated by the chair.

(a) The Chair shall notify Committee members of the date, place, and subject matter of any Committee hearing at least one week before the hearing, unless the Chair determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, in which case the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible time.

To the greatest extent practicable: (1) each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file with the Committee at least 24 hours in advance of the

appearance a written statement of proposed testimony and shall limit the oral presentation to the Committee to a brief summary thereof; and (2) each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include with the written statement of proposed testimony a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two preceding fiscal years.

(b) Unless waived by the Chair or by vote of the Committee, the five-minute rule shall be observed in the interrogation of each witness before the Committee until each member of the Committee has had an opportunity to question the witness.

(c) The Chair, or any member of the Committee designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to witnesses before the Committee.

RULE VII

TRANSCRIPTS

(a) The Chair may order the taking of transcripts of all or part of any Committee proceedings. Such transcripts shall be prepared by Committee staff from actual electronic recording of the proceedings, a stenographic record of the proceedings, or both.

(b) The transcripts shall be open for inspection at the request of any Member of the Committee.

RULE VIII

QUORUM

No measure or recommendation shall be approved unless a majority of the Committee is actually present. For purposes of taking testimony or receiving evidence, two members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

RULE IX

SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) General Provisions. In accordance with Rule 22 of the Conference, the Chair of the Committee may appoint, in consultation with the Speaker, subcommittees of the Committee. Each subcommittee is part of the Committee, and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and to its rules to the extent as applicable.

(b) Membership. Members of the Committee may sit on no more than three subcommittees of the Committee except for the Chair of the Committee, who shall be an *ex officio* member of each subcommittee. A member of each subcommittee shall be designated by the Chair of the Committee as the Chair of the Subcommittee.

(c) Meetings. Subcommittee Chairs shall set meetings only with the approval of the Chair of the Committee.

RULE X

OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chair of the Committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee.

Conference Rule 2

Republican Leadership

ELECTED LEADERSHIP

The Elected Republican Leaders of the House of Representatives are:

1. Speaker
2. Republican Leader
3. Republican Whip
4. Chair of the Republican Conference
5. Chair of the Committee on Policy
6. Vice Chair of the Republican Conference
7. Secretary of the Republican Conference
8. Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee
9. One Member of the Junior class elected by the Junior class
10. One Member of the Sophomore class elected by the Sophomore class
11. One Member of the Freshman Class elected by the Freshman class

DESIGNATED LEADERSHIP

The designated Republican Leaders of the House of Representatives are:

1. Chairman of the House Committee on Rules
2. Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means
3. Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations
4. Chairman of the House Committee on Budget
5. Chairman of the House Committee on Commerce

LEADERSHIP ISSUES

The Speaker may designate certain issues as “Leadership Issues.” Those issues will require early and ongoing cooperation between the relevant committees and the Leadership as the issue evolves.

A Member of the elected or designated Leadership has an obligation, to the best of his/her ability, to support positions adopted by the Conference, and the resources of the Leadership shall be utilized to support that position.

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Conference Rule 22

Committee on Policy

The Committee on Policy shall be an advisory Committee to the Membership of the House Republican Conference. The Committee on Policy shall meet at the call of the Chair of the Committee on Policy or the Speaker, and shall discuss legislative proposals with Republican Members of the appropriate standing and special committees and with such other Republican Members as the Chair may invite to meetings.

The Committee on Policy shall report its suggestions for Republican action and policy to the Republican Members of the House. The Chair of the Committee on Policy may appoint, in consultation with the Speaker, such subcommittees from the Republican Members of the House for such purposes as may be deemed appropriate.

COMPOSITION

The Committee on Policy shall be composed of:

1. One Member from each of the ten Regions appointed under the Steering Committee structure and, where applicable under that structure, one Member representing small states. The Republican Members of Congress from the states of each region and, where applicable, from the small states shall meet in caucus and shall select from their number, by secret ballot, the Member of the Committee on Policy and shall report their selection to the Chair of said Committee.
2. One Member of the Junior class and one Member of the Sophomore class and one Member of the Freshman class.
3. The House Republican Leadership, as elected and designated by the House Republican Conference.
4. A maximum of ten* members-at-large appointed by the Speaker.

SENIORITY

The traditions and privileges of seniority shall not apply to membership of the Committee on Policy and the Committee may, at its direction, make such rules as are necessary for conduct of its business.

* The Conference adopted a resolution by unanimous consent on March 7, 2001, amending this paragraph to allow for the appointment of a maximum of fifteen members-at-large for the 107th Congress only.

